

The United States will spare no aid to people of Central America, our fellow Americans, as we all strive to build a better world in a new century.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:59 p.m. on November 13 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November

14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The related memorandums of November 6 and 14 on emergency disaster relief assistance for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church *November 14, 1998*

On this International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, I want to reaffirm my administration's strong commitment to religious freedom around the world.

Today, in solidarity with millions of people at home and abroad, we pray for those who suffer for their beliefs—a suffering forewarned by Scripture: “. . . they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you . . . [you will be] brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.” But with this warning comes the promise, “I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to deny or resist.” (Luke 21:12).

My administration worked closely with Members of Congress and the U.S. religious community to secure passage of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which is an important addition to our ongoing efforts to make

the promotion of religious freedom a national priority and an integral part of our foreign policy.

On this day, when we keep in our thoughts the noble struggle for religious freedom of people of all backgrounds, whether Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist, Baha'i, or of any other faith, we remember the words of the American Founding Father James Madison, who called religious liberty the “luster of our country.” And we pray that our devotion to religious tolerance will serve as a beacon for all people everywhere who yearn for spiritual freedom.

NOTE: H.R. 2431, the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, approved October 27, was assigned Public Law No. 105-292.

Remarks on the Situation in Iraq and an Exchange With Reporters *November 15, 1998*

The President. Good morning. Last night Iraq agreed to meet the demands of the international community to cooperate fully with the United Nations weapons inspectors. Iraq committed to unconditional compliance. It rescinded its decisions of August and October to end cooperation with the inspectors. It withdrew its objectionable conditions. In short, Iraq accepted its obligation to permit all activities of the weapons inspectors, UNSCOM and the IAEA, to resume in accord-

ance with the relevant resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

The United States, together with Great Britain, and with the support of our friends and allies around the world, was poised to act militarily if Iraq had not reversed course. Our willingness to strike, together with the overwhelming weight of world opinion, produced the outcome we preferred: Saddam Hussein reversing course, letting the inspectors go back to work without restrictions or conditions.